



SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter

March 2023 Term 1

Message from the Head of Campus



Welcome to the latest edition of SOTA Speak where we celebrate the positive aspects of this term.

After a joyful Induction Week at Port Augusta, it was wonderful to catch up in Woomera for School Experience Week. Our sincere thanks to Woomera Area School principal, Ms Ann O'Sullivan, staff and students for the warm and generous welcome to their school. Seeing SOTA students interacting with students from Woomera Area School and Andamooka was a delightful treat. The 100 metres long corridor and the wide range of facilities of the school impressed all of us. In between the learning activities organised by teachers, Australian Space Discovery Centre and Defence, our Years 3, 5 and 7 students also completed NAPLAN. A special mention must go to our year 1 student, Honey-May for coming to Woomera without her mother and was well looked after by Paulaine's family. How fast do they grow!

The students, supervisors and parents also met our new itinerant teacher, Mr Myles at Woomera. He has been a helpful addition to the school and looks forward to getting offroad. Mr Myles had a glimpse of how some SOTA students learn in his whirlwind visit to Holowiliena and Upalinna in his first week at work. Having just recently completed his 4WD training, he is

making his way to Nilpinna with Ms Megan and Miss Kaur. He'll make his first solo offroad visit next week.

As we head towards the end of Term 1, we are encouraged by an over 92% average attendance rate, supervisor survey results that indicate students are engaging well on WebEx, full team of teachers and how well staff, supervisors and parents are working together in their care of SOTA children learning and wellbeing. Our week in Woomera also impressed on us the generous service that many parents and governesses give to SOTA. Big thanks to the governesses who happily took complete responsibilities of recess and lunch, and supported the teachers in every way possible. As well, several parents, notably Candice who went out of her way to secure donation from Woolworths and picked up a trailer load of grocery from Roxby Downs for the students. When stakeholders work together, progress and positive wellbeing can be achieved.

It takes the collective effort of students, teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers to create a thriving and successful learning environment, and I am grateful for the contributions of each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, dedication, and hard work make our school a special place where students can grow, learn, and flourish. I am moved by your passion and service, and grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for all that you do to make our school a truly special place.

Best wishes
Lai Kuan Lim



Events

Good Friday Public Holiday: **7 April**

Easter Monday Public Holiday: **10 April**

School Holidays: **15 - 30 April**

Canberra Camp: **1 – 5 May**

Camp: **3-7 July**

Mini Schools: **25 - 29 September**

Get Together: **8 - 9 December**

OPFA: Week 3 (T2) Wednesday 10 May.

CGC: Week 4 (T2) Wednesday 17 May

Premier's Be Active Challenge

The Premier's *be active* Challenge is about encouraging students to be more active, more often. Participants are rewarded with medals if they complete at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 5 days per week for at least 4 weeks. Information can be found at www.pbac.sa.edu.au

Student Free Days

June 13th

August 7th (correction from July 7th)

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) was introduced in 2004 to encourage reading and improve literacy levels. To achieve a PRC award, students must read at least 12 books in the beginning of the school year to early September. 8 of these books must be from the PRC [booklist](#). Last year, 31 SOTA students received PRC certificates at SOTA's Awards Night.

OPFA and SOTA CGC

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

An opportunity for the parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) to discuss any aspects associated with the school.

SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates

All meetings at 3:30pm

PRC is coordinated by our school librarians. For more information, you could ask them directly on Wednesday assembly or by email and phone:

Email: library@openaccess.edu.au

Mobile: 08 8309 3500: Option 5

Improving reading is our Site Improvement Plan (SIP) goal. Reading expands children's imagination of the world and gives them access to a range of perspectives on the power of nature, people and creativity. However, to develop avid readers requires encouragement and support by families and schools. Let's work together to foster an interest towards reading, especially reading for pleasure.



SOTA Book Club

Student Council is running SOTA Book Club to share great books with the community. To kickstart the initiative, here are two book recommendations by the Learning Leaders:

Title: Dragon Slippers
Author: Jessica Day George
Reviewer: Stella, Year 7

What's it about: This is the tale of a girl who is sent off as a sacrifice to the dragon on the hill. When the girl meets the dragon they become friends. On her journey to become a dress maker she meets many other dragons, a prince and a shop girl who she becomes fast friends with. When a war breaks out, they have to fight for their lives.

Age recommendation: 8 and up. Younger children may find the reading tough.

Title: The Silver Brumby Series
Author: Elynne Mitchell
Reviewer: Winsome, Year 6

What's it about: It is about a silver brumby called Thowra growing up in the Snowy Mountains. It follows his adventures and battles to become the King of the Brumbies, and his fight against man capturing him.

Age recommendation: 9 and up

Rating: 10/10! I have read book one, I love it and I'm going to read more. I highly recommend.

If you have read a good book that is worth sharing with the school, please email your review to Lai Kuan for publication in the next SOTA Speak.

Connellan Airways Trust

A big thank you is extended to Connellan Airways Trust for the generous grant that families received to assist with the cost toward the 2023 Canberra Camp.





Term 1 Week 4

Miss Emma:

Emmett for working really hard on his number formation and his amazing wombat drawing.

Miss Jo:

Jack for using his Growth Mindset and challenging himself in his learning.

Miss Morley:

George for actively participating in class discussions, for being engaged on task in breakout rooms, and for always having a try at answering questions.

Miss Kaur:

Lachie for always being focused on the task, doing his best listening and asking great questions related to the task.

Ms Mel:

Abby for her diligence shown toward all areas of her learning.

Term 1 Week 7

Miss Emma:

Beau for putting in a great effort on his science labelling task including sounding out all of the body parts.

Miss Jo:

Honey-May for showing increased focus and participation on WebEx lessons. Keep up the great work!

Miss Morley:

Bonnie for her creative narrative writing and thorough practice in preparation for NAPLAN.

Miss Kaur:

Nelson has been awarded this certificate for participating in lessons and trying his best to finish his follow up tasks on time.

Ms Mel:

Jacob for his outstanding participation and leadership when working in breakout rooms.



RICE Preschool

What a busy first term our preschool children have had. They have investigated the topics ‘all about me’, ‘my family’ and ‘where do I live?’ Next on their learning journey was fairy tales: The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Children constructed houses, explored concepts, followed a recipe, and built bridges that a horrible troll lived under.

All children had a home visit this term. With the day focusing on numeracy, colours, concepts, and gross motor skills. My travelling adventures took me to Nonning Station, Evelyn Downs Station, Peake Station and Blinman.

Children will finish off the term with more fairy tale stories and social experiences in the form of play days. With one at Nonning in week 9 and Blinman in week 10. The first being held at Woomera while SOTA children attended school.



Mr Myles

Hello students and families, allow me to introduce myself. I am Myles Ryan or Mr Myles and I am the new itinerant teacher starting at Open Access College Port Augusta School of the air.

I have been a teacher for about five years and I have worked in schools in the Northern Territory, Burma, Spain, Colombia and now here in Port Augusta. :)

As a teacher I am easy-going, understanding and interested in making education a positive experience for all involved. I am looking forward to helping my students learn, develop as people and become empowered to succeed in whatever it is they put their minds to.

As a person I like cycling, travelling, camping, working out, playing video games, and cooking. I have spent the past three years of my life in Colombia after getting trapped there when the pandemic hit and I am looking forward to building a life again here in Australia, especially here in Port Augusta as the itinerant teacher for School of the Air.

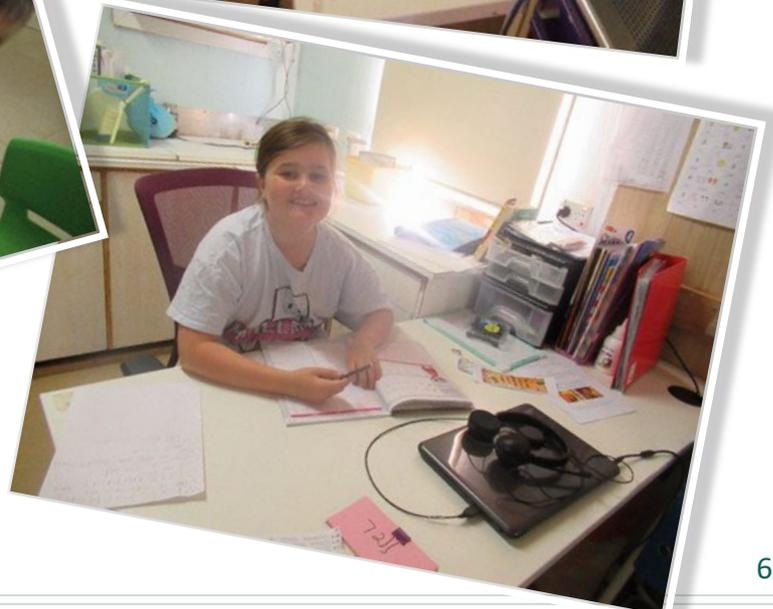


Miss Megan's Home Visits

Hello again SOTA families. As you can see from these photos, this term continues to be filled with great visits and learning. Our students are trying their best and having fun. Just look at these smiling faces!

From now on, I will be sharing my amazing Itinerant role with Mr Myles. I am very happy to have a companion, again. Visits will be more frequent, and we will be supporting each other to optimise the learning opportunities for every child. I am looking forward to seeing the happy photos he will take along the way.

Miss Megan



Miss Emma's Reception

We have been learning lots in Reception this Term!

In English we have been learning about our imagination and how we can use our imagination to pretend to be different things. We have been reading the book 'Imagine' by Alison Lester and 'The Magic Hat' by Mem Fox to help guide our learning. We have also been learning our sounds and how we can use our sounds to build words.

We have also used our imagination in drama where we have been learning lots of new drama skills such as role play, freeze frames and hand puppets.

In Maths we have been learning about sorting and patterns. We have been sorting by different features including colour and size. We have started making our own patterns using counters and blocks.

In Science we have been learning about the external features of animals and using our sorting skills to sort animals by their features.

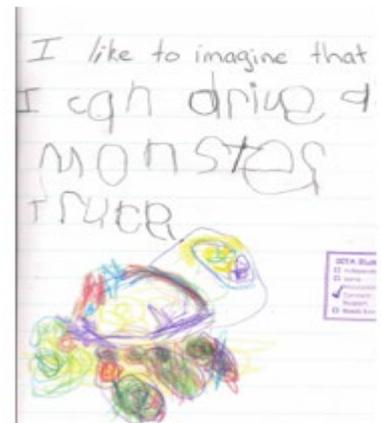
I am very proud of the Reception's amazing work!



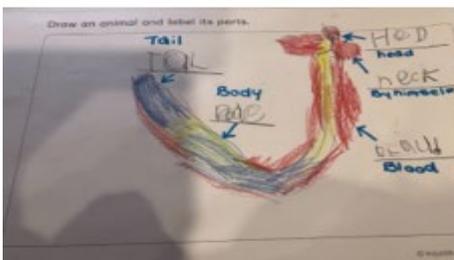
Roy



Remy



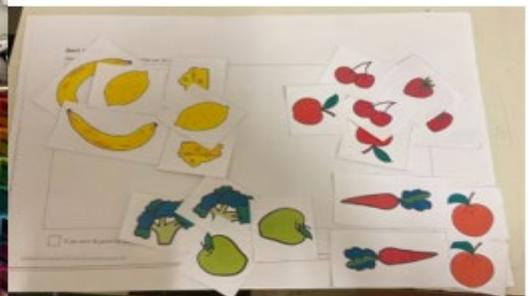
Edward



Beau



Emmett



Eli

Miss Jo's 1/2

In Science this term we have been focusing on different habitats and the needs of animals. Students had to design a habitat for an animal of their choice and ensure it included – food, water, shelter and air. Check out all of the amazing habitats below. Way to go Year 1/2 Legends!



Alex



Charlie



Dan



Clem



Honey-May



Lisma



Sanaisha



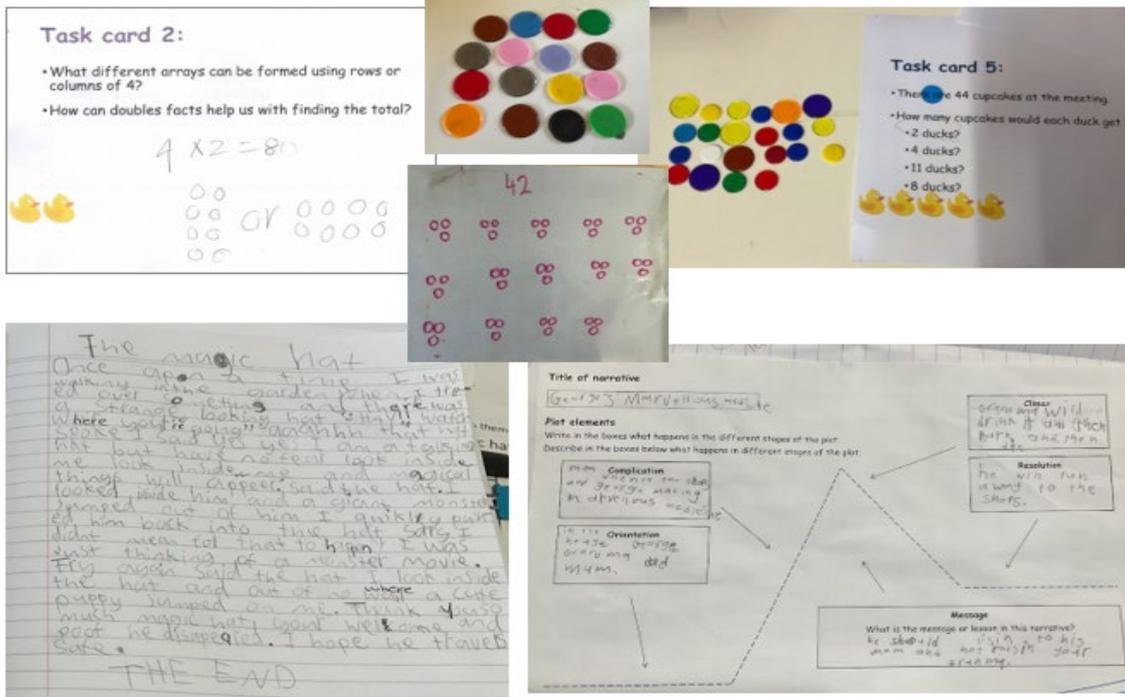
Lilly



Jack

Miss Morley's 3/4

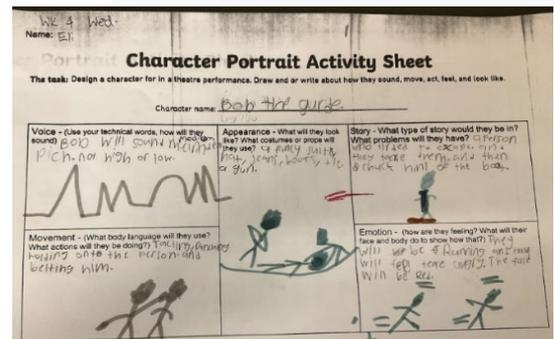
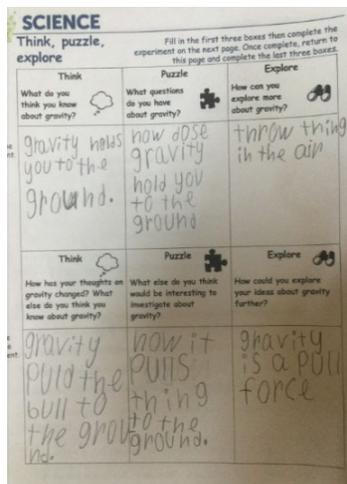
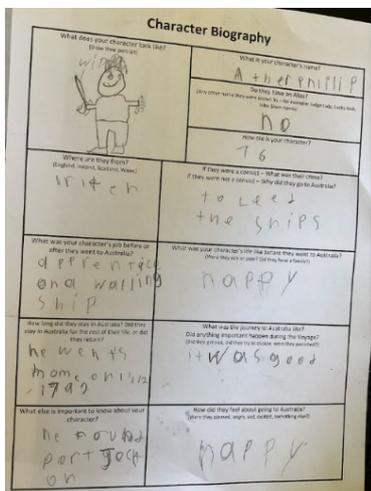
Week 9 already, hasn't Term 1 just flown! Since our last SOTA speak our Year 3/4s have been busy learning across all our subjects. In English, we have been reading George's Marvellous Medicine and writing our own narrative stories and in Mathematics we have been exploring how to use arrays in multiplication and division.

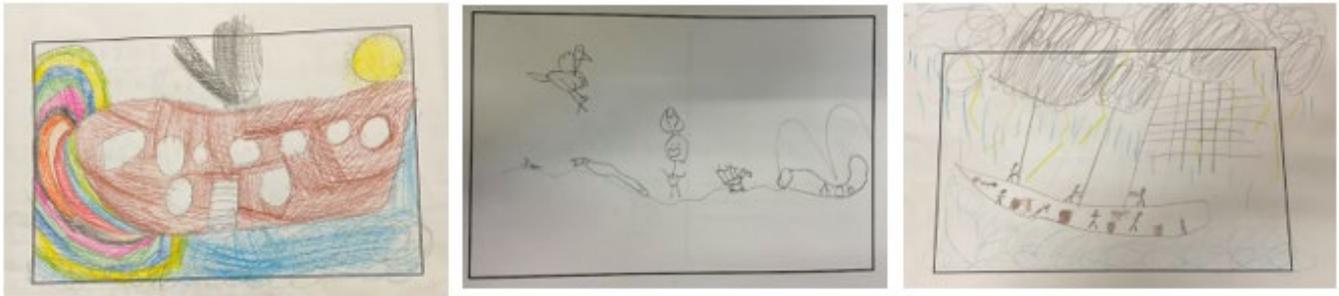


Our class combined HASS and Drama learning to design, write about, and perform as a character from the First Fleet. And in Science we did such a good job of learning about gravity and friction, we even managed to connect it to our space activities last week when discussing rockets in Womera!

1. Answer this before watching: What is friction?

- something that keeps you to not slip over
- a friction is a type of force.
- when things rub together
- so if you are in a parachute friction push up
- friction is something that stops stuff from moving
- when two surfaces rub together and make heat





Over this term, we have also been developing our social awareness through the celebration of and participation in events such as World Wildlife Day, International Women’s Day, and Marine Science Day.

Please share in and celebrate with us about our fabulous Year 3/4 learning this Term!

Based on the two videos and the map- Why do you think it is important to learn about World Wildlife Day and endangered animals?

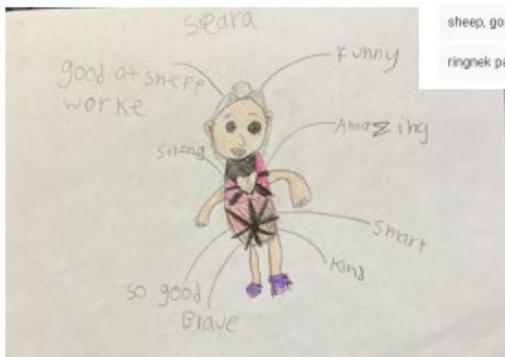
8 responses

- because you need to now what animals are in endangered
- you mite need it one day
- because with out animals evry one will dead
- Because there is danger ⚠️
- s you can help them to not get exyinct
- so you look after the world
- Because if we didn't they would all be dead if we dont look after them all.
- So people can stop hering the animals and there habitat

What animals live around your properties?

8 responses

- cows, dingo, emu, donkey, house,
- kangaroo cows snakes mouse spiders eagles
- dingo,s cows birds wiald turcy wombat enkna
- Sheep 🐏
- horses cows birds yabes
- lizards, birds, horses, cats, dogs, pigs, bees, cattle, kangaroos and emus
- sheep, goats, kangaroos, frilled neck lizards, goannas, snakes, echidnas,
- ringnek parots, kangaroos, sheep, goats emu, lizards, snakes.



Congratulations to our Year 3s who participated in their first NAPLAN last week! Well done on your awesome efforts!

Miss Kaur's Year 5/6

It's almost the end of Term 1, 2023 and I'm super impressed by all the learning year 5/6 have done so far. In HASS, we have been learning about the federation of Australia. Students designed PowerPoint slides explaining the reasons and main events that led to Australia's federation.

In Science, we have been learning about renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Students choose an energy source to research and created a poster explaining key facts about that source.

Nelson

First Constitutional Convention

- This was the first convention that led to constitution being written. This convention was called the first national Australasian convention. This convention was held on March the 2nd 1891 in Sydney. It was run by Samuel Griffith the premier of Queensland at the time.
- There were seven representatives chosen by each of the Australian colonies there was also 2 representatives from New Zealand.



Winsome

National Pride

- * By the 1800s many people began to identify as Australian and most of the population had been born in Australia.



Defence

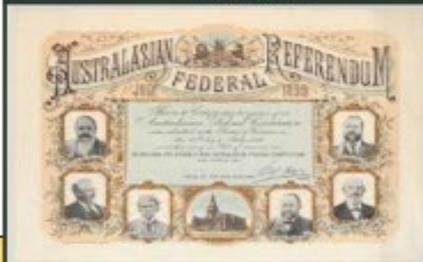
They wanted a stronger army to help defend against the bigger countries.



PJ

1893 Corowa Conference

The Corowa conference meeting was for the Federation it was held in 1893 with the new south wales it included the border town of Corowa for the Federation.



Micah

Wind Energy

Lucy

What is the definition?
The definition for wind energy is natural energy obtained from circulating the wind with a constant force.

How does it work?
Wind energy works by using the wind's kinetic energy to turn the blades of a wind turbine. The blades are attached to a rotor which is connected to a generator. As the wind blows, it causes the rotor to turn, which in turn causes the generator to produce electricity.

Where is it produced?
Wind energy is produced in areas with strong, consistent winds. In Australia, wind energy is produced in the southern and southern coastal regions.

Areas in Australia where it is used?
Wind energy is used in the southern and southern coastal regions of Australia, including Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

What are the positive effects?
Wind power is a clean, renewable energy source that produces no greenhouse gases or pollutants. It is also a safe energy source that does not require mining or drilling.

What are the negative effects?
The negative effects of wind energy are noise and visual impact. Wind turbines can be noisy and can be a distraction for some people. They can also be a visual distraction in some areas.

By Lucy Williams

James

NUCLEAR

NUCLEAR energy is the energy in the core of an atom.

Positive

- Not a significant amount of greenhouse gas or pollutants
- Safer than fossil fuels
- It's a clean energy source

Negative

- NON-RENEWABLE
- Uranium is finite and essential for nuclear energy
- Uranium has to be mined

Oil

Cody

AUKUS

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Definition
The energy that is released during nuclear fission or fusion to generate energy.

How it works
In the core of nuclear reactors, the fission of uranium atoms releases energy that heats water.

Where is it produced?
Nuclear energy is produced in Lucas Heights (south of Sydney).

Areas in Australia where it is used
It is used in Lucas Heights.

positive effects

- One of the most low-carbon energy sources
- It's one of the answers to the climate crisis
- It has one of the smallest carbon footprints

Negative effects

- Expensive, which is hard to build
- It's Radio active

Oil

Oil is a nonrenewable resource. Oil is used all over Australia as it goes in cars, motorbikes and trucks. It lubricates all engines. Oil spills in the ocean can have a bad effect on marine and wildlife animals.

Magenta



Lachie

SOLAR ENERGY

The sun is the source of solar energy. It is a clean, renewable energy source that produces no greenhouse gases or pollutants. It is also a safe energy source that does not require mining or drilling.

It is a clean, renewable energy source that produces no greenhouse gases or pollutants. It is also a safe energy source that does not require mining or drilling.

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Ms Mel's Year 7

This term is flying by! The Year 7 students have been busy producing engaging advertisements in English, extensive research projects in Science, conducting self-directed learning in History and solving many Mathematical problems relating to BEDMAS.

Abby & Ruby's advertisement



Stella's Science Information Report

Project Report: (Mammals)

What is a mammal and what are some characteristics?

Mammals are warm-blooded animals that have hair or fur, produce milk to feed their young, and breathe air. They are the only animals that have a neocortex in their brains. Mammals are found on all continents except Antarctica. There are about 5,400 species of mammals, including humans.

How do mammals breathe?

Mammals breathe through their lungs. They have a diaphragm that contracts and relaxes to draw air in and out of their lungs. The air then travels through the trachea and bronchi to the alveoli, where oxygen is exchanged for carbon dioxide.

How do mammals move?

Mammals move using their muscles and bones. They have a skeleton that supports their body and allows them to move. Some mammals, like fish, have fins, while others, like birds, have wings. Mammals also have different types of feet, such as hooves, claws, and paws.

How do mammals eat?

Mammals eat different types of food, including plants, insects, and other animals. They have different types of teeth, such as incisors, canines, and molars, which help them to chew their food. Some mammals, like herbivores, only eat plants, while others, like carnivores, only eat meat. Omnivores eat both plants and meat.

How do mammals reproduce?

Mammals reproduce by giving birth to live young. The young are born with a placenta and umbilical cord that connect them to the mother. The mother provides the young with milk to drink. Some mammals, like marsupials, give birth to very small young that they carry in a pouch. Other mammals, like monotremes, lay eggs.

How do mammals communicate?

Mammals communicate in many different ways, including sound, touch, and smell. Some mammals, like whales, use sound to communicate. Other mammals, like primates, use touch and smell. Mammals also use their body language to communicate.

How do mammals adapt to their environment?

Mammals have many different adaptations that help them to survive in their environment. Some mammals, like camels, have humps that store fat. Other mammals, like polar bears, have thick fur. Mammals also have different types of eyes, ears, and noses that help them to see, hear, and smell.

References:

1. National Geographic. (2019). Mammals. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/>

2. BBC. (2019). Mammals. Retrieved from https://www.bbc.com/earth/2019/01/190101_mammals

3. National Geographic Kids. (2019). Mammals. Retrieved from <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/>

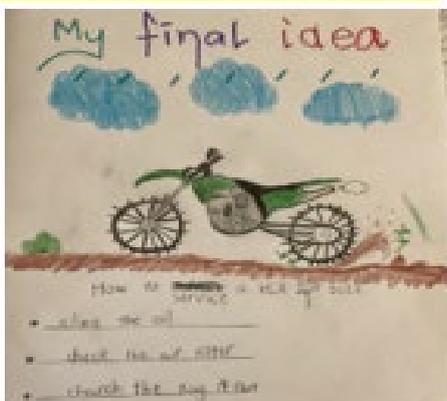
4. National Geographic. (2019). Mammals. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/>

5. National Geographic. (2019). Mammals. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/>

Aurelia & Jacob's advertisement



Ryder's Passion Project





SCHOOL EXPERIENCE WEEK @ Woomera Area School

